

STAFF REPORT

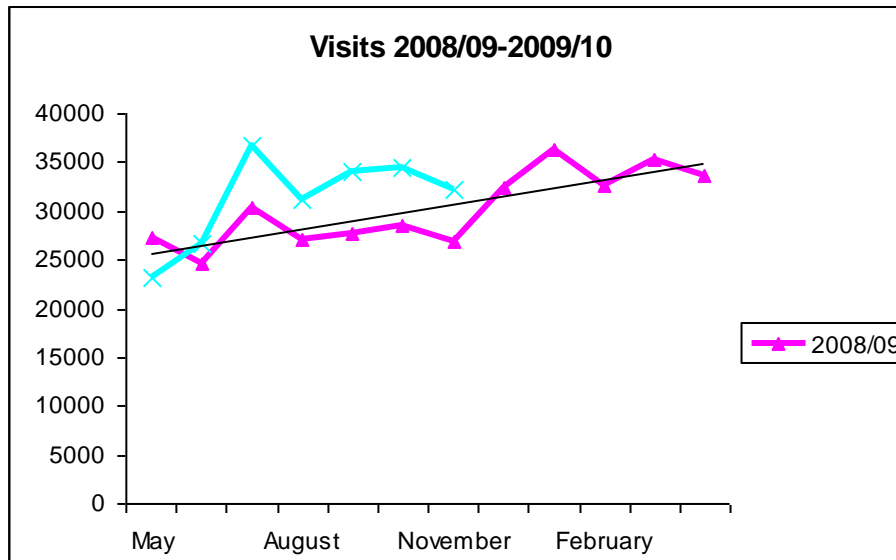
TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Libraries Manager
DATE: 1 December 2009
SUBJECT: Libraries Manager's Report

STAFFING

Helen McCubbin, currently working in Collection Services at Richmond Library, has been successful in obtaining the Motueka Librarian position. Helen and Karen both continue in their current positions until we are able to fill Helen's position.

TRENDS

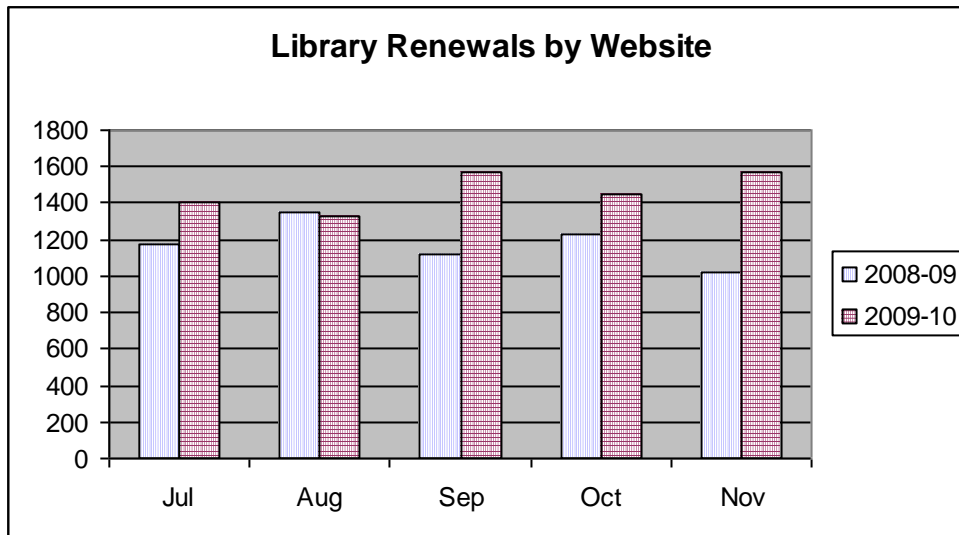
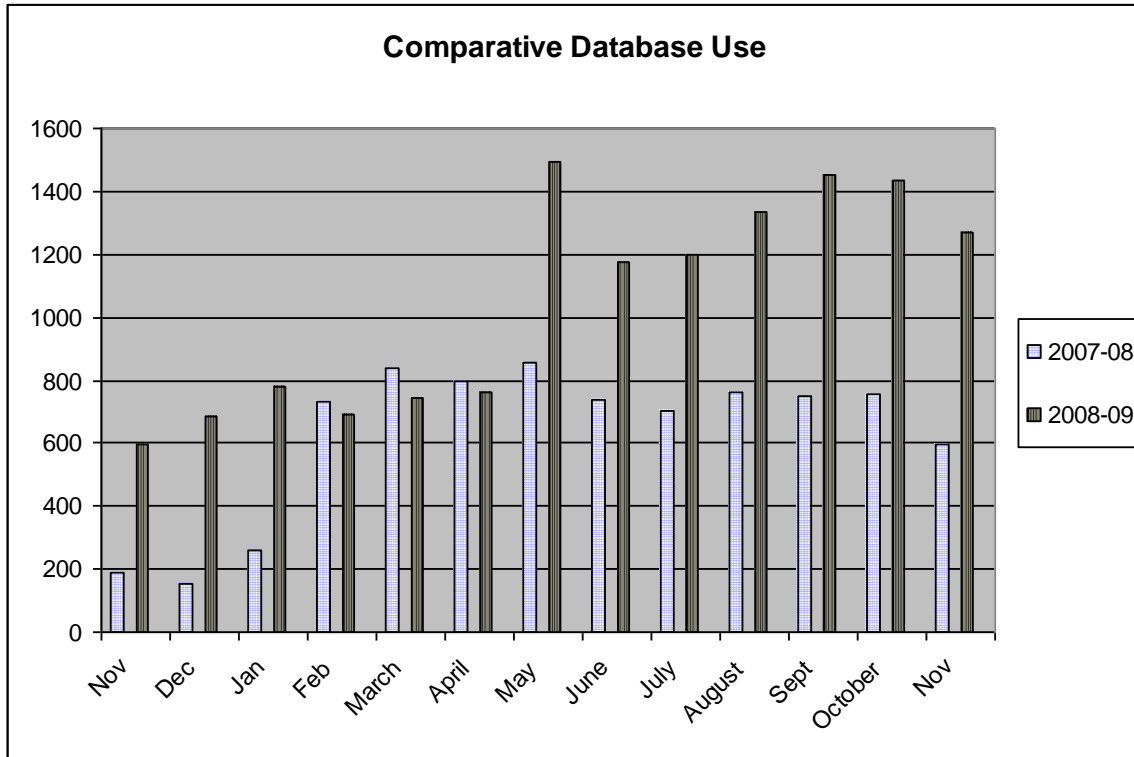
Visits for November were 20% above the same time last year and the average for this financial year is also +20% overall. Hypothetically, if the business was spread equally between the four branches, this would equate to an extra 61 people per day at each of the four branches.



E-information

It is interesting to see the continued rise in the use of e-information and digital access. These products and services form part of the core business of public libraries, and forecasts are for this trend to continue. Both subscription based database use (see examples in attachment) and online renewals show a marked increase over last year's figures. E-audio, digital storytelling, web 2.0 tools such as social tagging (customer

description labels) and interactive virtual spaces are all becoming common among public libraries in New Zealand. The use of Facebook as part of the community consultation process is also becoming popular, providing another way to present information to our customers and receive feedback.



HIGHLIGHTS

Richmond Building Project Our Queen Street entrance is open, although we are still waiting on some specific product to complete some of the casing around the sliding

doors. Our customers are enthusiastic about the change, although disability parking has been a cause for concern for a few of our patrons. There is a disability carpark 20 m either side of the Queen Street entrance, outside Serendipity, and up the right of way.

The old entrance has been closed off, and the security gate relocated to the new doors. This will eventually be replaced by a double set of gates allowing a better flow of traffic. The first phase is scheduled to be completed by the end of January at which time the library will relocate into the finished area, while the builders move into the current operating space.

The library will close from 25 January 2010 to 1 February to accomplish the move, re-opening on 2 February in our reduced space. It is possible that the completion of the project will be mid-June 2010.

LMS - Library Management System

The LSynCNZ RFI was advertised on the GETS website on 30 October and closed on 19 November. The number of respondents is still in commercial confidence. The RFI outlined the requirements, on behalf of the interested public libraries, for a library system shared service. It also set out the conditions of the RFI to allow vendors to prepare a response.

The RFI asked vendors to respond to some or all of the following areas for provision of the overall solution:

- software applications covering library management and discovery interfaces; [Discovery interfaces are softwares that enable search across different types of electronic information and that have internal logic built in to provide relevancy ranking and fuzzy searching - the ability to deal with misspelt words.]
- migration services – [transposing all the datafields from one format and field structure to another]
- a hosting partner; and
- investment partners.

Out of scope for this RFI were:

- hardware;
- networking services.

APLM and NLNZ will use the findings from the RFI to inform a business case for Councils and potentially Government providing evidence of the types of suppliers capable of delivering the required mix of solutions. The business case is being developed according to government guidelines for IT projects.

Subject to the success of the business case, NLNZ and APLM will also use the RFI responses to create a long list of respondents who, having met minimum mandatory requirements, will be invited to submit a full and detailed response to one or more RFPs for the delivery of a library system shared service or its hosting for the participating public libraries.¹

¹ Adapted from *RFI Release Version GETS*

Aotearoa Peoples Network

Funding from non-Council sources for APN (hardware, software, networking and the Call Centre) is confirmed until June 2011, and external funding is continuing to be sought by the APN Management Group for future years beyond 2011.

Summer Reading Programme 'Dive into Books'

This year we asked our Richmond customers to register online for the programme, having smaller quarters inhouse during the building process. The programme began on Monday 7 December and report ins are being carried out at Tasman District Council rooms. This year we have been able to employ summer students for a couple of hours per day to help staff cope with the increased business.

Recognition for Motueka Library programmes and services

We have received a letter from Ngatimoti School (attached) expressing appreciation for the library's part in lifting literacy levels. It's great to have the public good provided by libraries recognized. Congratulations to all the staff.

UPCOMING

Richmond library staff are planning for the relocation at the end of January. New shelving will be integrated into some of the old shelving, and stock re-organised and re-located by staff and a removal contractor. The Customer Services area is being reduced in size and will operate from a temporary set up relocated into the new area. IS and the Digital Services Librarian will be relocating the public and staff computers. The backroom staff will relocate upstairs to their permanent offices. The old furniture will continue to be used until the Grand Opening at the end of the project.

Catherine Bryham
Libraries Manager

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